

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Ed Jefferies, Pastor of the Trinity Assembly of God Church and Chaplain of the Johnson City Police Bureau.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize citizens of our state who serve their communities with extraordinary diligence and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Edward T. Jefferies, Pastor of the Trinity Assembly of God Church and Chaplain of the Johnson City Police Bureau, is clearly one such exemplary individual who upholds the finest traditions of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jefferies was born on September 30, 1940, in Baltimore, Maryland; graduated from Parkville High School in Baltimore in 1958; and graduated from Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God in 1972, with a bachelor of arts degree in theology and history and with a teaching diploma. He graduated magna cum laude and was a member of Delta Epsilon Chi; and

WHEREAS, he served admirably as Pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Eden, North Carolina from May 1972 to May 1976, and was ordained by the Assembly of God in August 1974; and

WHEREAS, since May 1976, Edward T. Jefferies has served God faithfully as the Pastor of Trinity Assembly of God Church; and

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WHEREAS, under his excellent guidance, Trinity has grown both in terms of membership and, most importantly, in terms of spiritual knowledge and direction; and

WHEREAS, he has served with compassion as Chaplain of the Johnson City Police Bureau since December 1974, serving as a volunteer 1978-1983, part-time 1983-1990 and full-time 1990 to the present; in this important position, he has made a significant, positive difference in countless lives; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jefferies always goes beyond his duty. This noble virtue is evidenced by the fact that when he delivers death notices to those who have suffered the loss of a relative, he always follows up to ensure that the deceased's families are provided for; and

WHEREAS, he also expertly counsels police officers who have had to wound or kill someone in the line of duty; these officers are, unfortunately, sometimes forgotten after the incident; and

WHEREAS, he has solemnly conducted funeral services for police department canines; in his words: "Sometimes we have to look past what is considered 'appropriate' in order to minister to the people"; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jefferies holds numerous professional memberships and appointments, and he generously contributes his time and knowledge as a certified member and Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor of the National Christian Counselor Association; as a member of the National Organization for Victims Assistance; as Chaplain for the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, District 3; as Chaplain of the Tennessee Association of Fire-Fighters; and as a member of the Johnson City Police Bureau Hostage Negotiation team; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jefferies is also a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains, holds their highest certification, Master Certification, and has served as Chairman of their Continuing Education Committee; he is also a member of the Federation of Fire Chaplains, member of the Upper East Tennessee Law Enforcement Executive Council and was appointed as a chaplain for the Knoxville Division of the FBI and as chaplain of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, District 5; and

WHEREAS, he has been married to the former Marline Spears since August 18, 1962, and their marriage has been blessed with four successful children, each of whom graduated from college with honors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to commemorate the life of this tireless public servant, who has been the best possible role model for our citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Pastor Edward T. Jefferies, one of Tennessee's finest citizens who has touched countless lives in a positive manner and who continues to have a significant impact on the members of his church and in his community. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.